

<b>1-17</b>	<b>Family Councils</b>	<b>Part 1 of 2</b>
<b>Authorizing Utah Code: 62a-5-103</b>	<b>Rule: None</b>	<b>Rights and Protections</b>
<b>Approved: 4/13/00</b>	<b>Rule Effective:</b>	<b>Printed: 4/00</b>
<b>Form(s): None</b>	<b>Guideline(s): None</b>	

## POLICY

State, **Region** and Local Family Councils will be organized and maintained to advise and assist the State in educating, strengthening, and supporting families of persons with disabilities.

## PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURES

1. State Family Council representatives shall include:
  - A. three representatives from each **Region**, one of which must be the **Region** Council chair, who are family members of a **Person** with a disability and are chosen by the **Region** Councils in their respective **Regions**, with each **Region** allowed 3 voting rights;
  - B. one **Division** Board Member, appointed by the Board to serve in an advisory capacity; and
  - C. one **Division** staff representative, to be selected by the **Division's Director**, to serve in a support capacity.
2. The State Family Council shall elect one representative to serve as the chair. The chair will conduct council meetings, which will be held as needed, but no less than quarterly. Elections for the chair will be conducted yearly in January. The chair will be the deciding vote in case of tied voting. Other officers and/or committees may be appointed as needed.
3. State Family council activities are intended to be strategic in purpose. They may include, but are not limited to:
  - A. serving as an advocate for Family Council issues on a statewide basis;
  - B. providing information, education and assistance to Local and **Region** Councils;
  - C. assisting the **Division** with evaluating its services and/or other projects;
  - D. encouraging collaboration among groups and agencies with similar interests;
  - E. promoting the family's role in the interdependence among state agencies, Local and **Region** Councils, provider and advocacy organizations and with other families;
  - F. sharing information on Local and **Region** Council activities;
  - G. coordinating and administering programs and funding consistent with the above.
4. Region Family Council members will determine who will have voting rights, and shall include:
  - A. chairs and/or representatives from each Local Council within that **Region** that are family members of **Persons** with a disability;
  - B. a chair, who will conduct council meetings, and other officers who must be family members of a **Person** eligible for **Division** services, and are elected annually by the **Region** Council; and
  - C. **Division** staff, who will serve in a support capacity.
5. **Region** Council activities may vary from **Region** to **Region**, but will remain consistent with the following purposes and efforts:

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<b>Authorizing Utah Code: 62a-5-103</b>	<b>Rule: None</b>	<b>Rights and Protections</b>
<b>Approved: 4/13/00</b>	<b>Rule Effective:</b>	<b>Printed: 4/00</b>
<b>Form(s): None</b>	<b>Guideline(s): None</b>	

- A. providing information, education and assistance to Local Councils
  - B. promoting the family=s role in the interdependence among regional agencies, Local Councils and families;
  - C. encouraging collaboration among groups and agencies with similar interests;
  - D. serving as an advocate for Family Council issues on a regional basis and to the State Family Council;
  - E. sharing information on Local Council activities;
  - F. assisting the regional **Division** with evaluating its services and/or other projects.
6. Local Family Council members will determine who will have voting rights and full or partial access to their meetings. The Local Councils shall include:
- A. Interested family members of **Persons** with disabilities within the Council=s coverage area or community;
  - B. a chair, who will conduct council meetings, and who must be family member of a **Person** eligible for **Division** services; and other officers, the majority of whom are family members of persons with disabilities; elected annually by each Local Council; and
  - C. **Division** staff, who will serve in a support capacity.
7. Local Council activities may vary in each location of the state, but will remain consistent with the following purposes and efforts:
- A. providing information and educating its members;
  - B. promoting the family=s role in directing the supports received so that supports are family driven;
  - C. identifying and offering support to families, and developing family-to-family networks for families of children with disabilities in the local community;
  - D. provide input to, and work with Region and State Family Councils;
  - E. encouraging collaboration among agencies, professionals and families;
  - F. co-sponsoring workshops and seminars;
  - G. developing ways to maximize the use of existing resources.